

LeBaron, Richard B(London)

RELEASED IN PART
B4, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B2

From: Derbes, Danielle E
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 12:37 PM
Subject: Embassy London Daily Report-February 22 (C/NF)
Attachments: image001.wmz; image003.wmz; oledata.mso

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Embassy London Daily Report – Feb 22, 2008 (C/NF)(U) Embassy-Organized Media Coverage for Legal Advisor John Bellinger(C/NF)(SBU) GE Bullish About UK Nuclear Future(SBU) No UK Expectation of U.S. Cap and Trade in Near Future(U)Top News StoriesSelected Upcoming VisitorsRecent Cables

(U) Embassy-Organized Media Coverage for Legal Advisor John Bellinger: With less than five hours of concrete lead time on February 21, the Embassy Public Affairs Office set up extensive media coverage for the Department's Legal Advisor John Bellinger to provide a USG response following the Foreign Secretary's announcement that two CIA detention operation flights transited Diego Garcia, a British Overseas Territory in 2002. This is a very sensitive issue for HMG and the widespread media coverage secured by the Press Office allowed Bellinger to both explain the circumstances surrounding the delayed release of information and to reassure the British public that the U.S. would seek explicit permission from HMG if and when a need to transit British territory in a detention operation arose in the future. Bellinger also explained that protections afforded by the military commissions and refuted claims that President Bush would veto the latest intelligence bill passed by Congress in order to allow the CIA to continue to waterboard detainees.

Media Coverage:

1530-1615 Press Roundtable in Embassy Studio with leading print journalists.
1625-1635 Radio pre-recorded interview with BBC's Gordon Corera which was carried on the Hourly News bulletins, BBC's Radio 4, Radio and 5 Live.
1640-1650 Pre-record in PA Studio for BBC Radio 4 "PM" program. Presenter: Eddie Maier.
1650-1715 Pre-record for BBC "Newsnight" in Beth's Office. Presenter: Kirsty Wark.
1720-1730 Pre-record in PA Studio for BBC World Service Radio "Newshour" presenter Julian Marshall.
(PA:MGoshko) (Back To Top)

(SBU) GE Bullish About UK Nuclear Future: GE Energy has made a significant commitment to the UK's civilian nuclear market, according to VP for Business Development Brian Cothran. According to Cothran,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER

DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2008 200706444

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He stressed that greater government to government regulatory cooperation would help U.S. technology providers. (EST: SPatch) (Back To Top)

(SBU) No UK Expectation of U.S. Cap and Trade in Near Future: There is no UK expectation that the U.S. will have an active carbon cap and trade system in 2012, when the EU goes into Phase III of its cap and trade program, labeled EU-ETS, according to Jill Duggan, Head of International Emissions Trading at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Duggan noted that there was impetus for an international system, with Australia and Japan preparing the groundwork for carbon trading, and stated that there was the hope that the U.S. would have made a commitment to cap and trade by 2012. Duggan further stated that there was a need for "complimentary measures" to cap and trade, including plans for technology research and deployment. She concluded by noting the goal was to reduce emissions and to create a level playing field for industry. (EST: SPatch) (Back To Top)

(U) Top News Stories: RENDITION FLIGHTS: With State Legal Advisor John Bellinger in London yesterday we were able to get the U.S. message across that "the error came to light after a new and even more exhaustive search carried out in response to continuing allegations that Diego Garcia had been used for such flights." Bellinger conducted interviews with BBC "Newsnight" with clips available for other BBC TV channels, BBC Radio 4 "PM Program," BBC World Service "Newshour," and BBC Radio News bulletins. He also did a print press roundtable for all the broadsheets and wire services. The story was headline news from lunchtime throughout most of the day, but by the evening had dropped down in the running order. Bellinger's remarks appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *Associated Press* today.

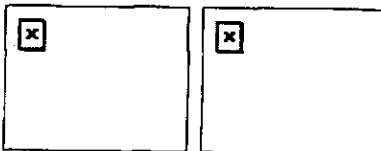
The Times headline: "U.S. aircraft did use British base to transport terrorist suspects"... "Gordon Brown made little attempt to hide his irritation telling reporters of his disappointment at the 'very serious issue.'" Foreign Editor Richard Beeston comments, "It confirms what many had long suspected – that when America needs Diego Garcia it will use the facility with little regard to the British officials or their rules." The editorial opines, "...While Condoleezza Rice has apologized for the inaccuracies of previous records and accounts it is less clear what the U.S. authorities intend to do to ensure that other allies are not exposed to the charge of providing inaccurate statements to parliaments and to citizens."

The Guardian, in a full page spread reports that: "John Bellinger, chief legal adviser in the U.S. state department, said CIA officials were now 'as confident as they can be' that no other detainees had been flown through Britain on secret rendition flights over the past six years of America's 'war on terror.'" Bellinger, who was in the Commons yesterday to hear the foreign secretary's statement, said the Bush administration had not informed Britain at the time because it was not legally obliged to. He promised there would no future rendition flights without UK approval, and said there were no such requests pending."

The Telegraph also with a full page article reports: "By taking [the suspects] to third-party countries, the U.S. security services can bypass laws that forbid torture in most countries. Mr. Miliband has ordered officials to compile a list of all flights which the Foreign Office has been alerted to regarding possible rendition. He will then ask for assurances from America that none were used for that purpose."

The Independent headline: "Official apology after CIA 'torture' jets used UK base." In an opinion piece, "Liberty" director Shami Chakrabarti writes, "...so here we are, tainted by this ugly practice. It is easy to feel smug and superior about the Bush administration and, yes, its use of kidnap and torture is reprehensible in the extreme. The 'they didn't tell us' excuse doesn't wash."

CARTOONS



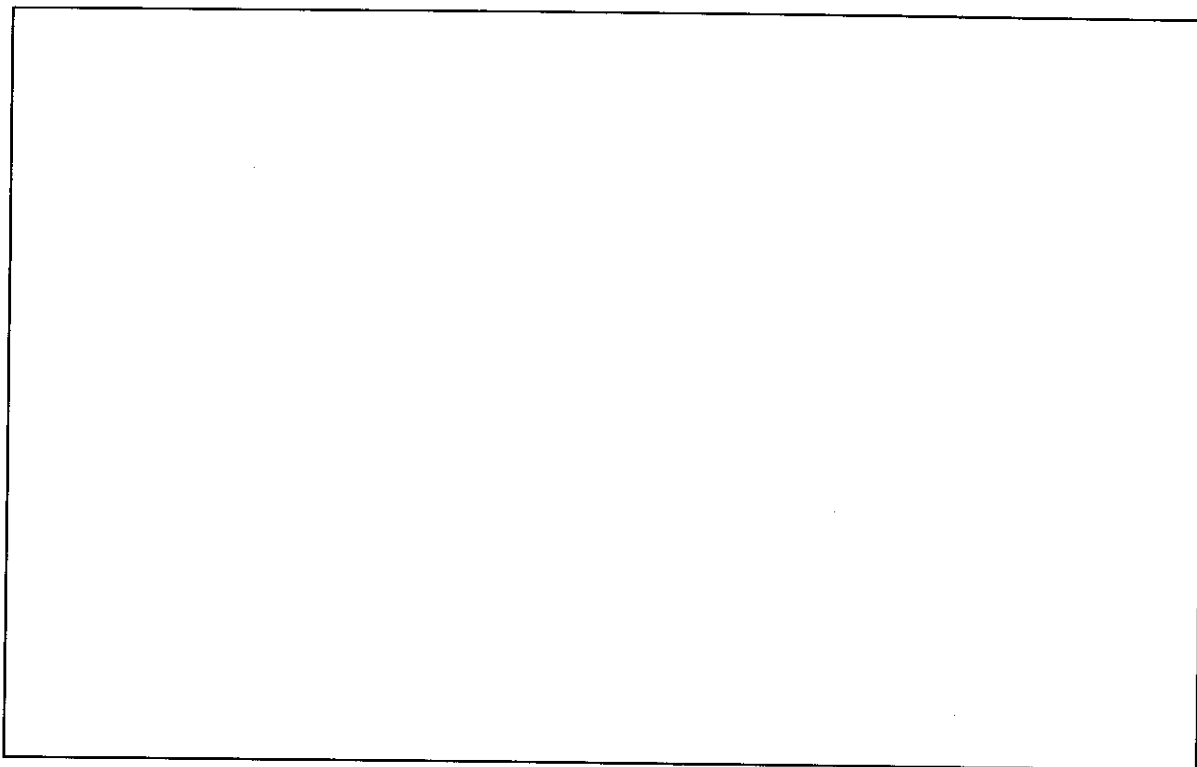
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Selected Upcoming Visitors:

Name	Date	Purpose

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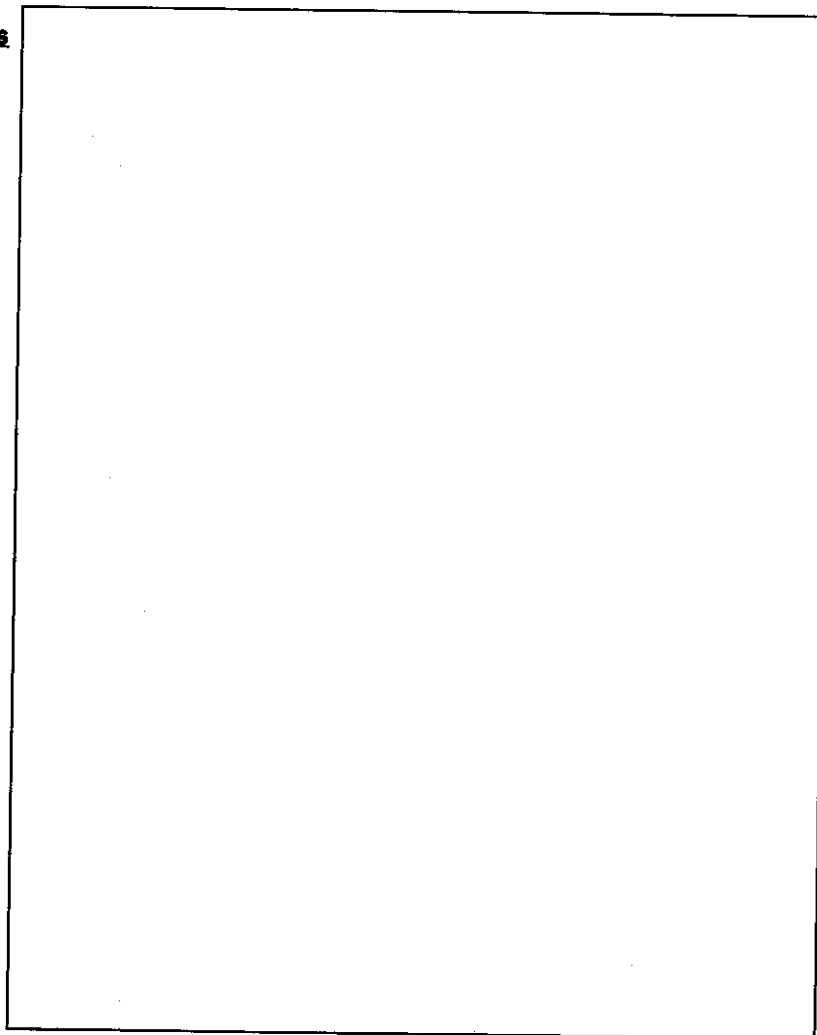
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Recent Cables:

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Feb 21 519 (C)

Feb 19 511 (C/NF)

Feb 19 506 (U) UK COUNTRY CLEARANCE IS GRANTED TO CODEL
ACKERMAN

Feb 15 498 (SBU) UK PM BROWN REACHES OUT TO CHINA AND INDIA:

Feb 15 497 (C)

Feb 15 495 (C)

Feb 15 494 (SBU) INFORMATION ON SATELLITE INTERCEPT DELIVERED TO
HMG

Feb 15 493 (C)

Feb 15 492 (C)

Feb 15 487 (U) UK COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO CONGRESSMAN
VITO FOSSELLA

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